

M. de Talleyrand, as a member of the Council of Begency, also received the order to quit Paris on the 30th of March. At this period I was at his house every day. When I went to him that day I was told he had started. However I went up, and remained some time in his hotel with several of his friends who had met there. We soon saw him return, and for my part I heard with satisfaction that they had not allowed him to pass the harriers. It was said then, and it has been repeated since, that M. de Talleyrand was not a stranger to the gentle violence used towards him. The same day of this visit to M. de Talleyrand I also went to see the Due de Hovigo (Savary), with the friendly object of getting him to remain, and to profit by his position to prevent disturbances. He refused without hesitating, as he only thought of the Emperor. I found him by his fireside, where there was a large fire, in which he was burning all the papers which might have compromised every one who had served his ministry (Police). I congratulated him sincerely on this loyal occupation: fire alone could purify the mass of filth and denunciations which encumbered the police archives.¹

On the departure of the Empress many persons expected a popular movement in favor of a change of Government; but the capital remained tranquil. Many of the inhabitants, indeed, thought of defence, not for the sake of preserving Napoleon's government, but merely from that ardor of feeling which belongs to our national character. Strong indignation

¹ Talleyrand was most anxious not to leave Paris, and he applied to Savary to obtain permission to remain. Savary refused, and told him that he ought to start, but unfortunately did not make sure that he did so. It is said that it was Prince de Remusat who carried out the little plot by which the willing Talleyrand was turned back from the barriers, and left free to plan a new career for himself, much puzzled as he was, to know which side to take; see *Salary*, tome vii. p. 21. A large portion of the dignitaries ordered to Blois did not go (see *Miot*, tome iii. "p. 389), the feeling at Paris being the exact opposite to that entertained by Beugriot, who was then in the provinces at Lille. "I had long considered the Emperor as lost, but I had no notion that his misfortunes absolved me from my oaths" (*Beugnot*, vol. ii. p. 89).

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Bourrienne's pleasure at seeing Savary engaged in destroying the police records was most natural; his belief that Savary would at once leave his fallen master is characteristic and resembles that of his friend Talleyrand, who tried to dissuade Meneval from accompanying the Empress into Austria; see *Meneval*, tome iii. p. 485. All this time Bourrienne was most busy. "We shall find him a few pages farther on trying to lure over Marniont."